

In the Caribbean Sea

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico (it means "rich port") is a territory of the United States. This means that Puerto Ricans are citizens and can move freely to the continental United States. But while they live in Puerto Rico, they cannot vote in presidential elections, and they do not pay federal income taxes.

On Nov. 6, Election Day, Puerto Ricans will vote to decide whether their island would like to become the 51st U.S. state, remain a territory or be independent.

Who do you know?

After Mexican-Americans, there are more Hispanics from Puerto Rico in the United States than from any other Latin American country.

Ricky Martin is a singer and Broadway star. He was born in the Puerto Rican capital, San Juan.

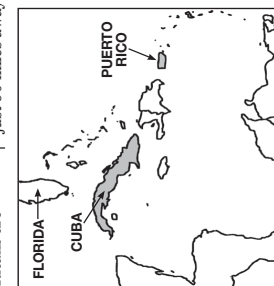


Ricky Martin

Official name: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Popular sports: baseball, boxing, soccer
Currency: U.S. dollar

Cuba

Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean Sea. It lies just 90 miles away from Florida.



Christopher Columbus claimed the island for Spain in 1492. Spain gave up its hold on Cuba in 1898, and four years later, Cuba gained its independence from the United States.

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans have left their home country to move to the United States or other countries looking for greater opportunities.

Who do you know?

If you watched wrestling during the Summer Olympics, you probably saw Mijain Lopez Nunez win gold. Nunez was born in Cuba. He also won a gold medal at the 2008 Olympics.



Mijain Lopez Nunez

Official name: Republic of Cuba
Popular sports: soccer, baseball
Capital: Havana

Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- ciagov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html
- smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/hispanic_resources.html

At the library:

- "Extraordinary Hispanic Americans" by Cesar Alegre
- "Frefly Summer" by Pura Belpre



TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of Hispanic Heritage Month are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: AMERICA, ARGENTINA, BELIZE, CANAL, COFFEE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, GAS, HISPANIC, IMMIGRATE, INDEPENDENCE, LATIN, MEXICO, OIL, PANAMA, PUERTO RICO, SPAIN, SPANISH, SPORT, VENEZUELA.

SPANISH IS ALL AROUND US!

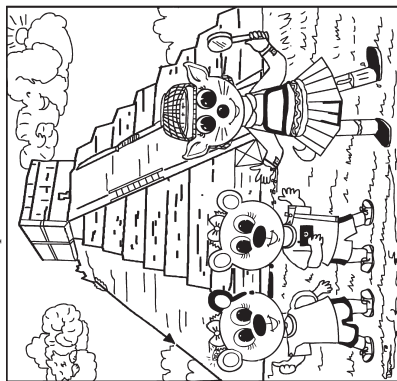


A O C I R O T R E U P I A V S
L J W B N I A P S A M C M T P
E A M E R I C A I M I A A R A
U C T L I O G B I R A N N O N
Z O C I X E M G A B Q A A P S
E F S Z N O R T U C M L P S I H
N E E G O T A A I N T N E G R A
V E C E C N E D N E P E D N I

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting an ancient pyramid in Mexico. See if you can find:

- exclamation mark
- hot dog
- basket
- arrow
- number 3
- hammer
- letter E
- elephant
- heart
- kite
- ring
- ladder
- gift
- cat
- alligator
- ice cream bar
- question mark
- letter D
- teapot
- word MINI
- knife



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Mexican Pinto Beans

You'll need:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 (15-ounce) cans pinto beans, drained
- 1 large jalapeno pepper, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- salt to taste

What to do:

1. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan.
2. Add onion, peppers and garlic; cook until onions are soft and translucent.
3. Stir in cumin and chili powder.
4. Add beans and chopped clantro. Season with salt as desired.
5. Heat through and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Jake T. Austin

Jake T. Austin is the voice of Diego in the Nickelodeon animated series "Go, Diego, Go!" He is also known for his role as Max in the Disney Channel series "Wizards of Waverly Place."

He has starred in several movies, including "Hotel for Dogs," "The Perfect Game" and the Disney Channel movie "Johnny Kapahala: Back on Board." He has also been the voice for several animated movie characters.



He has his own YouTube channel, jakeetheld. He writes, directs and acts in the "shorts" for his channel. Jake, 17, grew up in New York. He speaks English and Spanish. He loves skateboarding, playing basketball and going to the beach. He has two brothers, a sister and a younger sister. He supports charities such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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Supersport: Calvin Johnson

Birthdate: 9-29-86
Height: 6-5
Weight: 230
Home town: Tyrone, Ga.

Imagine being a football star in high school. Calvin Johnson, a wide receiver for the Detroit Lions, is just one of the many athletes who have made a name for themselves in the sport. Johnson has 365 receptions and 16 TDs last fall.

In his first five seasons, Johnson has 365 receptions and 16 TDs last fall. Before going pro, Johnson was voted the nation's top receiver at Georgia Tech in 2006. In college he majored in building construction, and one summer he helped with building safe latrines for the poor in Bolivia. Since then he's built an All-Pro football career, signed a new eight-year contract, and expects to keep Lions fans roaring for a long time.



Gus Goodsport's report

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Mini Jokes

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All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Mary: Why were the astronauts unable to land on the moon?
Answer: Because it was full!

Morris: What holds up the moon?
Answer: Moonbeams!

Melody: What do we call the Earth's silliest satellite?
Answer: A moonatic!

